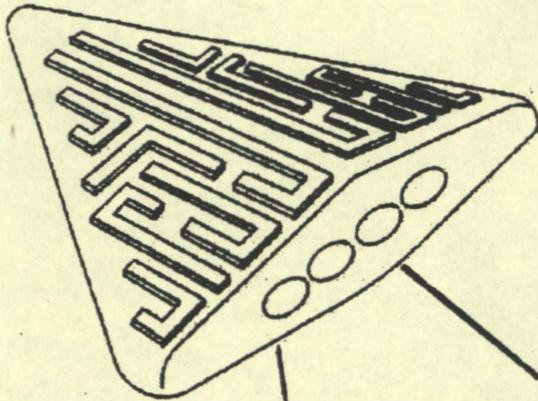
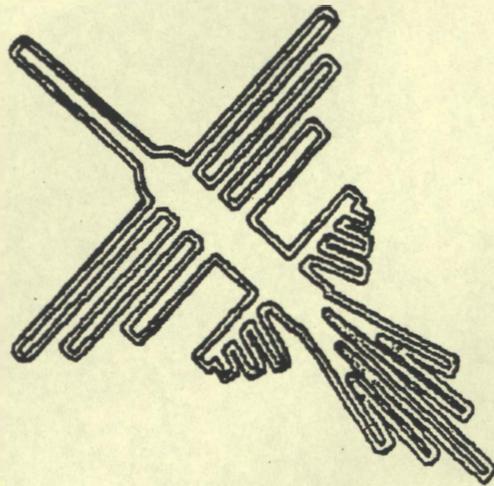
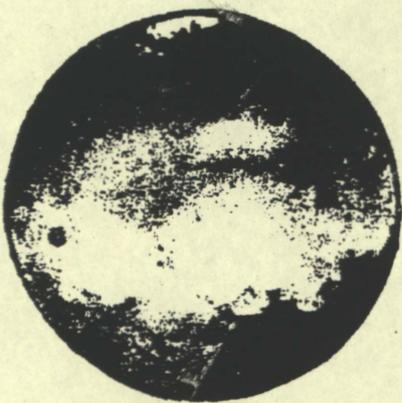


November/December

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The Sudden Death of Graham Birdsall

7th April 1954—19th Sept. 2003



'Big in stature, Big in his generosity and Big in his impact on Ufology'

The whole of the 'Ufological' world was stunned when the news first came through of Graham Birdsall's sudden collapse with a brain haemorrhage in the early hours of Thursday Sept. 11th.

In spite of valiant efforts by the hospital surgical team, which included a 7 hour operation, he succumbed to a final massive heart attack at 5am on the morning of the 19th September. His wife Christine and his two daughters were by his side.

Messages of condolence were sent from around the world to the grieving family. They came from Ufologists and many leading scientists in the UFO research field.

Graham was the Editor of 'UFO Magazine', which had grown from strength to strength under his leadership. It became one of the Worlds leading magazines in the presentation of UFO events and the in depth reporting of government and military activities both at home and abroad.

Graham travelled widely, attending UFO conferences around the world. One of his most interesting reports being that of his recent visit to Hong Kong and detailed in a recent issue of UFO Magazine.

There should be no need draw attention to the continued success of the annual 'Leeds UFO Conference' organised by Graham and his staff. It grew in stature year by year and became under his direction, the biggest event in the European 'UFO Calendar'. Understandably this years '22nd Leeds International UFO Conference' due to take place from 26th—28th September, was cancelled immediately Graham became ill.

His vibrant leadership in the field of Ufology will be greatly missed and his passing leaves a void in the subject that may take many decades to refill.

Omar Fowler

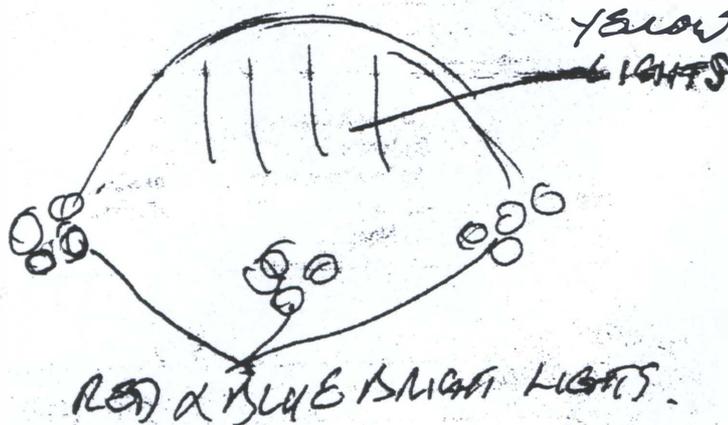
UNUSUAL UFO CRAFT SEEN OVER DERBY 23rd OCTOBER 03

On the night of the 23rd of October Mrs Angela Swift was driving along Mill Hill Lane, Derby towards her home. Suddenly her attention was attracted to a strange illuminated object which had appeared in the clear night sky over the St. Josephs School area.

Angela glanced at the clock on her dashboard, the time was about 10pm. The sighting of the object had made her feel uncomfortable. "Was it a plane?" she thought as she drove into Vicarage Avenue, the only problem was the object in the sky wasn't moving. For some strange reason Angela, who was a firm non-believer in UFO's, was disturbed by the sighting and "had an awful feeling that I was going to be beamed up" she said.

"As I arrived in Vicarage Avenue, the same object was above the detached house at the bottom of the road. I stopped the car and could see it quite clearly. The size was about 3" at arms length. I watched it for about a minute, it didn't move much and I noted that the lights were in an unusual configuration. Then I drove off again and parked the car outside our house. The object still made me feel very uneasy and I ran inside."

When asked if she had aroused the sleeping household, Angela replied that she had not and neither did she peer outside again. Strangely, neither of the two family dogs appeared to have been alarmed by the proximity of the UFO.



In answer to further questions, Angela commented that "There was no sound that I heard and the shape of the object was like a 'tea cosy'. It was a dark grey colour with bright lights at the top and very bright red and blue lights at the corners."

"There was no way that it could have been an aircraft, it was the strangest shape and it was too low" she added.

There was an unusual sequel to this sighting later that night when Angela heard an unusual noise in the house and woke up her husband.

"I woke him up in the middle of the night and said that I had heard a 'clicking' noise in the bedroom. Graham said that I didn't dream it, as he had heard it too. The clicking (*like a tin-frog toy*) went on for about six or seven times. It was the weirdest thing, I thought I'd had a dream!"

"It was nothing like the noise you hear in a house, like the radiators clicking or anything like that, I was a little unsettled by it as it seemed so unusual."

The noise has not been heard again since the night of the UFO incident according to Angela.

UFO SEEN OVER WARSOP, MANSFIELD (8th October 2003)

UFO sightings have been few and far between in the last few weeks, but a report from Mr P. Martin is worthy of a mention.

Mr Martin telephoned your editor recently in an effort to find someone that would listen to his story and not ridicule him. His verbal report of an event over Warsop near Mansfield, Notts. was followed up with a UFO Sighting Account Form and the details of the sighting that took place at 1am on the 8th October 03, are given below.

“I was about to get into bed, when through the window I saw what looked like a plane at first. But the more I looked, I realised that it was not moving.”

“There are houses across the road from my house and this object was hovering above the skyline of their roof. This fascinated me so much, I carried on watching it.”

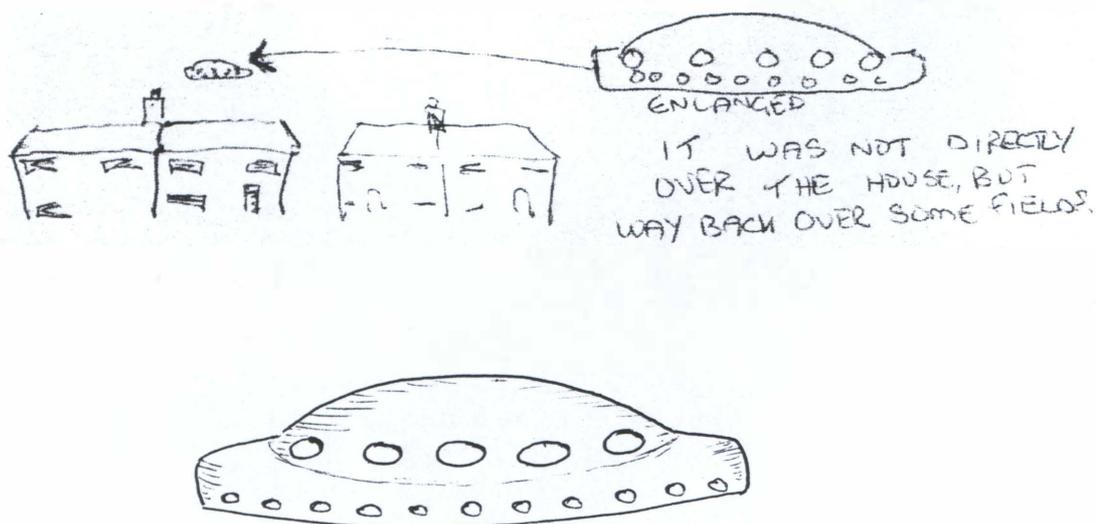
“The sky was clear and the two tiers of lights on the object were very bright. The top lights were large and underneath, there were smaller ones. It was too far away for me to be able to tell the colour of the lights, but their brightness made the object stand out in silhouette and I could make out the shape of it.”

“It made no sound and was stationary. It was not spinning and was about the size of a 1p piece at arms length. It was not directly over the house, but way back over some fields. Then as I watched, it slowly descended down until it was obscured by the rooftops over the road.”

“There was no sound and the object was too big for a plane, also the lights were too bright for it to have been an aircraft.”

Mr Martin went on to explain that he had watched the object for about fifteen minutes before it slowly disappeared and he also mentioned that he had seen objects over the same area, seven years previous. At the time of the sighting the sky was clear, there was no wind and the stars were visible.

Mr Martins sketch of the incident is shown below



“It was not directly over the house, but way back over some fields”

AMAZING DAYLIGHT SIGHTING IN NEW ZEALAND 27/10/03

A Report from Harvey L. Cooke of 'The Tauranga UFO Investigation Group' NZ.

The time was 10.15 on the morning of Monday the 27th October 2003 when Arthur and Pamela McCracken, residents living near Mt. Maunganui NZ saw a strange 'metal' object performing "some fantastic aerobatics" in the sky.

The couple were sitting in their conservatory at the side of their house, when they saw what they at first thought was an 'ultra-light' or a 'parachute' in the clear sky.

"Then it went into some fantastic aerobatics such as angles to the left and right, then rising high, then down and also turning while it was falling, then it would zigzag" said Mr McCracken.

"We watched it for fifteen minutes" he added. *(see drawing below)*

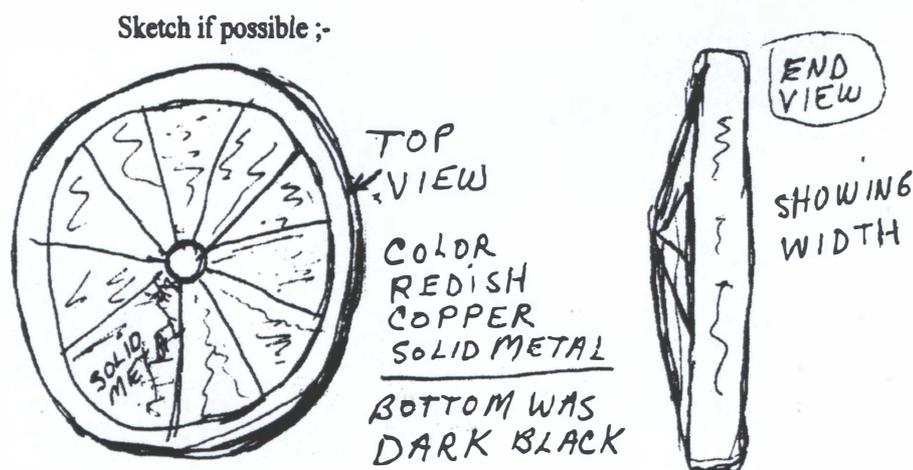


Mr McCracken continued "It must have been large, due to the metal details that we saw. There was only one object, it made no noise and in the sunlight it gave the appearance of being made of a bright metallic copper, with a reddish hue. The bottom of it appeared to be black."

Mr McCracken said that it was difficult to judge the size, "I'm not sure" he commented. "It was hard to believe and I had a feeling of excitement and nervousness."

"We later read in the local newspaper that a 'fireball' had been sighted near Mayor Island on the same day at 1am, before our sighting at 10.15am on Monday morning 27th October 2003."

(Our thanks to Harvey Cooke for this latest UFO report, received by us on the 6th November.)



Mr McCrackens drawing of the object

A STRANGE CREATURE REPORT

With thanks to PRA member Felicity Jones (York)

We understand that the photograph shown below emanated from Rachel Lacy, well known in York for holding 'ghost busting' vigils and running an investigation team that visits the many haunted sites of York.

It is believed to have been taken from one of the slides that is used in her talks on the paranormal and supposedly relates to an incident that took place at 'Khaimah'.

To give it the correct name, Ras al Khaimah is one of the seven union of Arab kingdoms making up the 'United Arab Emirates'.

The UAE is bordered by Qatar and the Persian Gulf on the north, Saudi Arabia on the west and south and Oman on the east and northeast.

The population is largely of Arab descent and a large number of people still live a nomadic life.

The following photo was exhibited as evidence in a police investigation into a very strange incident. It resulted from the case of a man who decided to take photos in some caves in spite of being warned against doing so by the local residents.

Around midday the photographer called the police, having heard horrible screams inside one of the many caverns when he was taking photos.

Some hours later the police discovered the remains of the man, totally dismembered, but with his camera still intact beside him.

When the police developed the film, they were shocked! For lack of further proof, they decided that his death had been caused by some wild animal...Have a look at the 'Wild Animal'.



We have reason to believe that it may be possible for such a 'creature' to exist in a primitive culture .

If anyone can shed any light on this story, please contact the editor of the OVNI.

READERS LETTERS

Hi Omar,

Thanks for the latest edition of OVNI. It is always very welcome.

I too am saddened by the obituaries in this edition especially that of Victor who I conversed with via e-mail on several occasions.

I think I can throw some light on the Derby sighting of 2nd August 2003. I am 90% certain that birds flying in formation caused the sighting. When birds fly at night in a group they nearly always fly in either a chevron formation, a straight-line formation or 'U' shaped formation. Many birds have light underbellies such as Canadian Geese and Swans and these reflect whatever ambient lighting is around. In an urban area, the street lighting is usually the orange sodium type and when the birds reflect this, they look like dull orange ovals. They appear to be moving fast because they are much closer than you think, so they might cover 100 yards in 10 seconds, but because they are only about 50 – 100 feet up, this 100 yards represents a large chunk of the sky that you have seen them fly through. If the birds were flying away from your witness as stated, then your drawing in OVNI would look correct as the formation looks a bit like a an inverted flattened V or U.

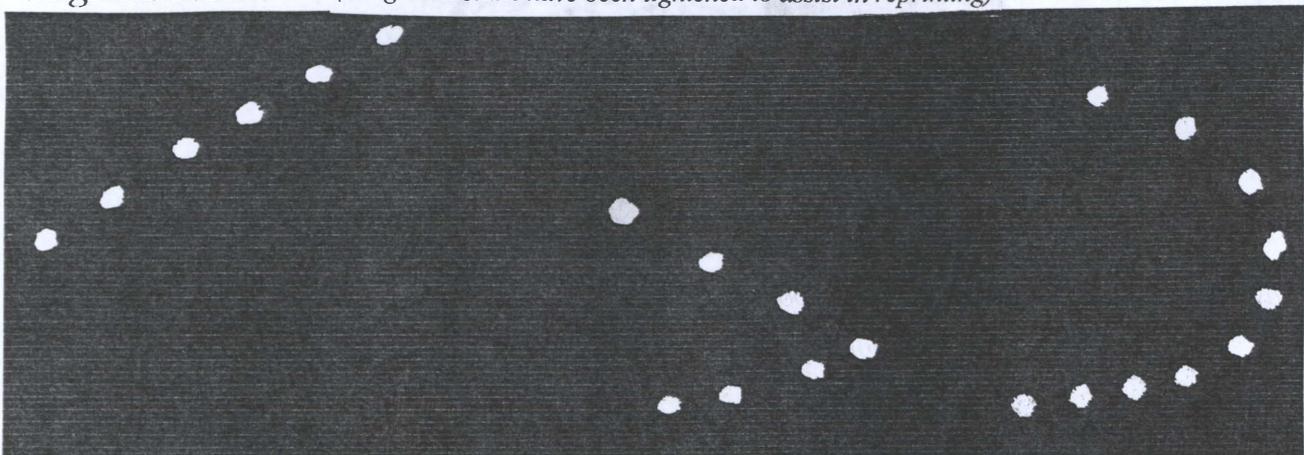
You might think that this wouldn't fool an amateur astronomer, but it certainly fooled me on one occasion and while I am reluctant to call myself an amateur astronomer, I have spent many tens of hours in my back garden with a telescope and binoculars making astronomical observations. If you have a look at http://www.mara.org.uk/Project_IFO.htm and scroll down to the bottom of the page, you will see a colour representation of what birds look like at night. You might want to ask your witness to have a look at it.

I hope this helps.

Bill Bimson

www.mara.org.uk

Birds flying late at night are often mistaken for UFOs. Many birds such as swans and geese have light underbellies which will reflect street lighting. Birds sometimes fly late at night many hours after sunset. They appear as a set of dull lights in a straight line or chevron or 'U' shape which may appear to move or change shape slightly as the birds move their relative positions within the formation. The lights will appear dull orange or brown in built up areas which have orange sodium street lighting. The colour of light they reflect will always be related to the street lighting in the area. They often surprise the witness because of their silence and apparent great speed. They appear to fly very fast because the witness assumes that they are thousands of feet up when in fact they are very close to the witness and only a few tens of feet or at most a few hundred feet up in the sky. Three examples of bird like formations are shown in the diagrams below. *(Diagram details have been lightened to assist in reprinting)*



Letters continued.

A Further Family Bereavement Experience

(29-9-03)

Dear Omar,

I had a similar experience to 'Carol' (OVNI Sept/Oct) in 1978.

I had been with my first husband to his Mother's funeral, who had died very unexpectedly with a heart attack. Late that evening, back at home, the rest of the family had gone to bed.

I was on my own watching television in the lounge, when suddenly an oval shaped sort of light appeared before me.

It framed a scene, there was a straight road, disappearing into the distance (like a railway line does). On the left was a row of 1930's semi's (*houses*), on the other side of the road on the right were playing fields, I noticed that the land was completely flat.

Walking away from me, with their backs towards me, were two people. One of them turned around, it was my mother-in-law. She smiled and waived and said to tell everyone (her family, she had 6 children), that she was well and happy and not to worry about her. The she walked on down the road with her 'companion' (who I didn't recognise or see the face of).

At this point I was 'gobsmacked' and amazed, so I screwed up my eyes and pinched the top of my leg, thinking I was dreaming. Then I opened my eyes and the scene was still there!

The colours in the scene were 'out of this world', sort of luminous and pale, but brilliant and bright, not like any colours I have seen in this world.

As I watched the two walk away, the scene just gradually faded.

I blinked a few times, consciously and found I was still sitting there in the lounge.

I can understand why Carol didn't tell many people about her experience. When I told my husband and his siblings about it all, thinking it would comfort them, I was accused among other things of being a 'witch'!

Since then, I have become interested in the 'unknown' and 'unseen' and had many psychic experiences.

I had better get back down to earth now!

'Babs' (*Pseudonym*)

P.S.

I was especially interested in your belief that 'It Is All Written' (*Editors comments in an earlier letter to 'Babs'*).

My Dad was in the Royal Navy from about 1930, through until the end of WW2 (1939—1945).

He once told me that as he was transferred from one ship to another one, the ships he left were sunk on their next sailing. This happened three times! The ships were HMS Royal Oak, HMS Bramble and I can't remember the other one.

As you probably know, sailors are very superstitious so when my Dad arrived on the fourth ship, the Captain wrote a letter to the 'powers that be' requesting not to move Dad to another ship!

Editors Comment: I have known of similar situations personally and I would like to hear from any of our readers that have similar stories to relate.

AN ALIEN BASE IN SIBERIA & ALIEN CONTACT

By Omar Fowler

Over recent years there has been a steady accumulation of evidence pointing to the fact that there may well be an established Alien base in the isolated centre of Siberia.

This statement has not been made as the result of a single news event that has taken place but more from the point of view of an investigator piecing together fragments of information put together in a similar way to completing a jigsaw. We do not yet have all the pieces of the puzzle to complete the full picture but there is now sufficient evidence to believe that an Alien base has been established on our planet!

In the summer issue of Flying Saucer Review, the article by Philip Creighton 'More On The Siberian Meteorite of September 2002', referred to an amazing statement made by a highly placed Russian source. The source, namely Valery Uvarov of Russia's National Security Academy had stated that on September 24/25, 2002, a meteorite was shot down over Siberia by an "unknown installation".

In the report of the 'Siberian Meteorite' FSR reader Mr A. Calvert referred to the in depth interview that took place between the late Graham W. Birdsall, Editor of 'UFO Magazine' and Valery Uvarov (April 2003 issue). During the interview Mr Uvarov stated "I am answerable to two people above me. They are answerable to the next person above them, who is our president." Obviously the Russians are treating this matter extremely seriously and are appealing for international participation in an expedition to the area planned for later this year.

This is not the first time that the centre of Siberia has been the source of 'Alien Base' rumours. In a FSR article (Spring 1997 issue) reference was made to strange domed structures that had been seen in north-eastern Siberia in the area of Verkhniy Vilyuisk, Yakutia by nomads passing through the region. Drawings of dome shaped structures were included in the article. Their origin was unknown and there was some speculation that these were the source of strange lights that had been reported in the area.

Up to this point, the information that I have referred to had been gleaned from human witnesses, but I am about to reveal an amazing story passed to me by psychic, Peter Gregory.

I have known Peter for several years and I have personal knowledge supporting his claims and experiences. Initially he delved into the world of ghosts and the paranormal, later becoming involved with UFO investigation.

Peter commented "Ghosts played an important part of my early childhood, it's not surprising that when I grew up I would spend a great deal of my time trying to prove their existence. As an adult, I became a psychic investigator in the Grimsby area, spending more than twenty years helping people with all kinds of psychic disturbance."

At one stage during the winter of 1979 Peter was instrumental in assisting the police in finding two lost children. The two children had disappeared in a blizzard in Glasgow. More than a hundred police searched for them but failed to find any trace of either child.

Peter called on his psychic ability to find them and was able to pass on information to the Grimsby police detailing the fact that the children had fallen through ice on a pond and he gave the location where they may be found. The Grimsby police passed on this news to the Glasgow police, but because of the heavy snow and ice the children's bodies were not found until six weeks later, only a hundred and fifty yards from the spot where Peter had predicted.

It would appear that Peter may have experienced what is now termed 'remote viewing' and this gift could have been responsible for his ability in later years to describe an Alien base in a remote area of Siberia.

It was during the 1990's that Peter Gregory claimed he had been in psychic contact with a 23 year old Hybrid Alien female who he knew as 'Oona'. Peter learnt that she was born on Earth as a direct result of alien genetic engineering in the early 1970's and had spent her entire life at a secret base in Russia and had never seen her home world.

Peter recounted his first impressions of the Alien base:

Strange images of things I had not seen before raced through my brain. One was of a dark grey terrain with high mountains and a red desert that stretched far into the distance. In the foreground stood seven circular domed structures that towered above the countryside like giant steel monoliths. The domes were covered with hundreds of large hexagonal lenses that reflected what little light there was. Their metallic surfaces were completely smooth with no apertures or entrances, they had no base supports of any kind and no other buildings were close to them.

Peter then revealed how he had first made contact with 'Oona' the Alien hybrid.

My first telepathic conversation with 'Oona' was in July 1994. 'Oona' said she had chosen to communicate with me because my abductions since childhood had given me a certain empathy with the Greys and this could be helpful if understanding between the two races were to materialise.

'Oona' explained that producing hybrids in their culture was not unusual, as they believe that crossbreeding with other races is a most effective way in controlling the evolution of that species and also ensuring the survival of their own.

Peter disagreed and said that interfering in the natural progression of any society was barbaric and evil. 'Oona' replied "How can you think of us as evil, when ma's own violent past is testimony to torture and genocide!" Peter reflected for a moment, "I just couldn't give her an answer because I knew deep inside that what she had said was perfectly true."

Peter went on, "If what you say is true, you could easily use genetics as a powerful weapon to eradicate man's influence from Earth within a hundred years."

'Oona' responded "It is not our aim to harm mankind in any way, only to help him realise his cosmic heritage, by creating a race of enlightened beings whose knowledge and wisdom will bring your civilisation to full spiritual awareness."

As the months passed Peter had a number of psychic contacts with 'Oona', in numerous ongoing question and answer sessions.

N.B. *These have been detailed in Peter's booklet 'Alien Contact. The Oona Story' (see end of this article).*

Peter asked "Do the Greys ever use implants on humans?"

'Oona' replied "A few suitable specimens are given implants by use, mainly pregnant females. These devices keep us in touch with the subjects position at all times and makes retrieval of foetuses and embryos simple and efficient. They are also used to closely monitor the physiological changes that occur in the human body and provided important data on the level of dangerous toxins and bacteria in the atmosphere."

Peter posed the question "I would like to ask about the secret bases you mentioned earlier. How many are there on Earth?"

'Oona' responded, "There are hundreds around the World in every country, most are known to the authorities and have their co-operation but some under sea installations are kept secret for our protection."

Peter, "Do you live in one of these bases and can you tell me where it is?"

'Oona' replied "No, I am not permitted to give you exact coordinates, but the area is marked on your maps as the Verkhoyansk Range. Our base is approximately six hundred kilometres inland from the town of Tiksi. We are deep underground and nothing can penetrate to that depth."

Peter then asked, "How long have you lived there and what is your function?"

'Oona' "For twenty three years my entire life has been spent at this biological unit. Mostly I assist other medical staff with retrievals (embryos and foetuses)."

Peter, "When you separate a baby from its mother don't you ever feel any emotion?"

'Oona' "No, because the child is given all that it requires for healthy physical and spiritual growth and usually adapts well to programming."

Peter, "What about the love and affection that every child needs to grow into a well adjusted adult?"

'Oona', "These emotions are part of the automatic conditioning that is now built into all our programmes."

Peter, "So you have learnt something from us?" (Emotions)

'Oona', "More than you will ever understand!"

Peter, "Can I ask you about the short message that was left on my notepad one night in June?"

IN OUR UNIVERSE THERE ARE INFINITE PERCEPTIONS OF REALITY
YET MAN IS CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING ONLY ONE.
IF HE IS TO ENDURE, HE MUST LEARN TO EXPAND HIS ACCEPTANCE
OF THIS SIMPLE COSMIC TRUTH. ONLY THEN WILL HE BE ABLE
TO FULLY UNDERSTAND OUR PURPOSE IN HIS CREATION
AND JOIN US AS EQUALS.

Peter. "What does it mean?"

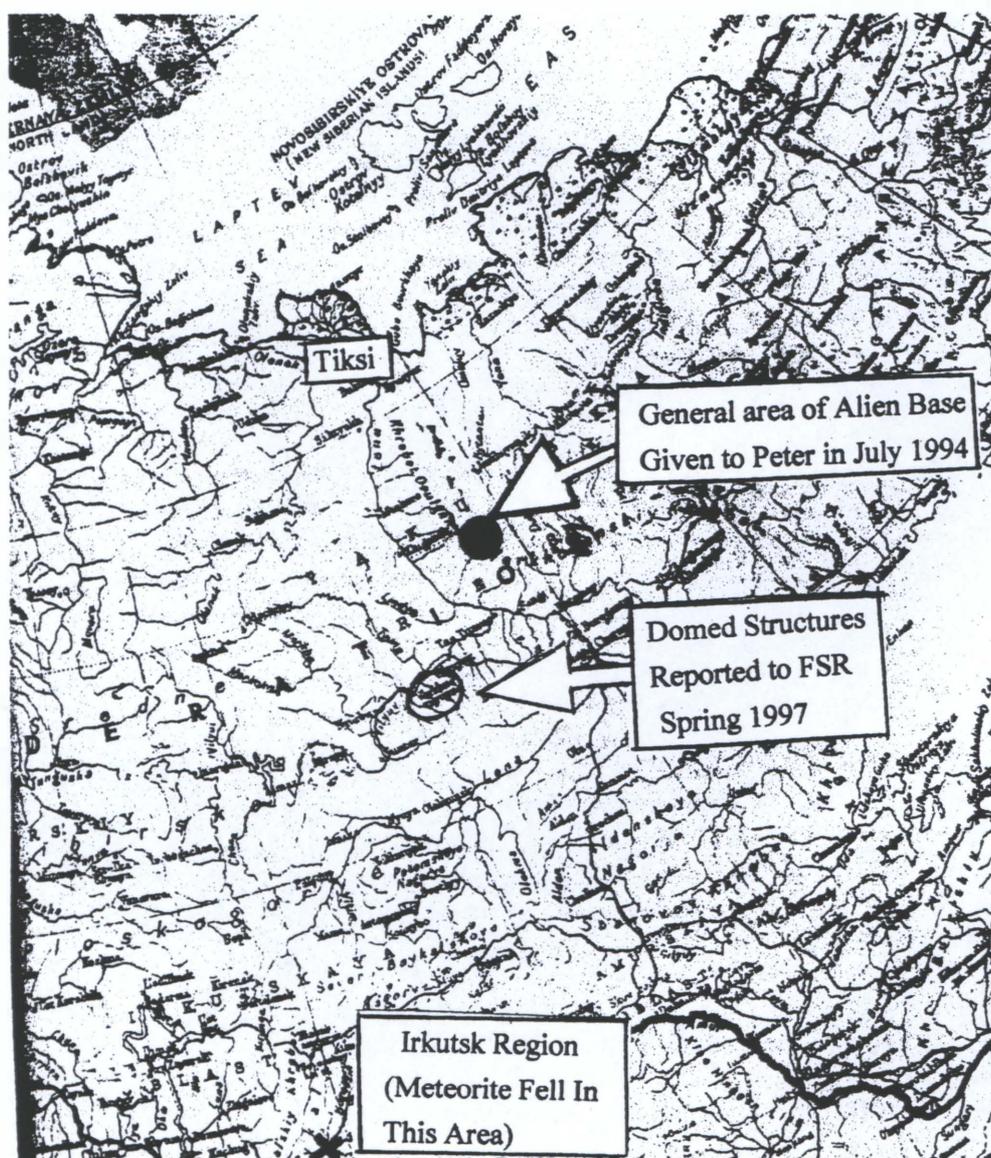
'Oona' went on to explain. "It means that the natural laws of time and space are infinitely variable and do not conform to mans scientific belief. He must rethink his whole conception of physics if he is ever to visit distant planets."

There was a short pause, then 'Oona' said "it is late and I sense that you are tired. Now would be a good opportunity to end our communication. We will talk again very soon, then I can tell you more about your creators."

Peter said that he looked forward to that. With those last few words 'Oona's' presence was gone from his room, only an empty silence remained. Peter looked across at the clock, it was 12.04am.

"Although the night was warm somehow I felt chilled" commented Peter. "The last hour had been a strain and also I was a little anxious where this new experience was leading. I sat for a while trying to inwardly digest all that 'Oona' had said, could it possibly be true? Were the Greys here to lift mankind to new spiritual heights or to destroy our culture and claim the Earth for themselves?"

Peter's story has been extensively edited from his original notes made during July 1994. The full story of Peter Gregory's conversations can be read in the booklet "Alien Contact. The Oona Story" published by the 'Phenomenon Research Association' (24 pages A4. Available at £3.00 including postage UK from Omar Fowler.)



From the Moon to Mars – The Story of Beagle 2

A Lecture at Derby University by Dr Geraint Morgan, 15th October, 2003

For any of you that have been outside after about 7pm, you can hardly have failed to notice the glowing orange “star” in the southern skies. On August 27th, Mars was closer to us than it has been for 65,000 years. Some people have imbued this fact with great significance, but whatever you believe, it seems likely that this is the reason why ESA (the European Space Agency) chose this time to launch its Mars Express mission. The *Beagle 2*, a British-built lander package, not originally planned to be part of the mission, and Mars Express were launched aboard a Soyuz rocket, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on June 2nd 2003. The *Beagle 2* lander is due to touch down on the Martian surface at around 3:00 am on Christmas day this year.

The Lecture at Derby University was due to be given by Professor Colin Pillinger - the “instigator” and main “driving force” behind the *Beagle 2* project. However, Professor Pillinger was called to a project meeting and so another member of his team, Dr Geraint Morgan, stepped into the breach. Dr Morgan gave his lavishly illustrated, fact-packed lecture to a people-packed theatre.



Beagle 2 was named after Charles Darwin’s ship. After Darwin made his voyage on *HMS Beagle*, he drew up his theory of *The Origin of Species* – which is now the basis of accepted thinking about how life evolved on Earth. It is hoped that the science carried out using *Beagle 2* will shape our understanding of how or whether any life has ever evolved on Mars.

The 1st part of the lecture was something of a combined history and chemistry lesson, where Colin Pillinger’s work on analysing both Moon rock and meteorites was explained. Colin Pillinger pioneered a number of techniques for improving the quality of mass spectrometry readings from rock samples, allowing more information to be obtained from smaller samples of material. Various slides explained some of the chemistry and science behind the study of meteorites that have been discovered over the years. The tale was related of the only known fatality caused by a meteorite fall – in 1911, a meteorite struck a dog in Nakhla, Egypt. The main reasons for studying meteorites are to try to find their chemical composition and therefore that of their “parent bodies”. This typically gives us more ideas about the formation of the early solar system and any organic compounds that may have been present.

It was then explained how Colin Pillinger decided that, following the announcement of the Mars Express mission in 1997, a Lander “module” would be an essential addition – particularly because, according to the mission plan, he had calculated there would be a “payload space” of 120 kg. Pillinger outlined his lander plan to ESA, but they then advised him that only 60 kg of payload would be available for a lander and he would have to find the money to fund any such project. Pillinger and his team,



showing tremendous skill and tenacity, overcame many technical and logistical difficulties in designing and building *Beagle 2*. He brought in the expertise of a number of private companies, including McClaren (of Formula 1 fame) to build the shell and structure of *Beagle 2*, and Astrium (manufacturers of the Sky TV satellites) to design and build the descent and landing system. The design of the lander was revised from the original “box-shape” to the more elegant “pocket watch” or “clam shell” design, which made the mechanics of unfolding the solar panels more simple (and reliable). Professor Pillinger and his team achieved another engineering miracle, by shrinking the components required



for a mass spectrometer down from the size of several fridge-freezers, into a 4 inch cube. The so-called Gas Analysis Package in the lander will be used to “cook” and analyse the Martian rock samples for traces of chemical compounds. Additionally, the “paw” (right) of the *Beagle 2* is equipped with a wide angle camera, a “mole”, a corer and a grinder for collecting sub-surface rock samples, a microscope, a wind sensor and other instruments.

Like all other landers, *Beagle 2*’s descent will be assisted by a heat-shield, which will burn away, and parachutes to slow it down. More unusual is the “airbag” system, which will inflate as the lander nears the ground. When the bags surrounding the lander reach the ground, the airbags will detach from the lander and it will fall the last few meters to the surface, and hopefully land flat. There is a risk it may land awkwardly, for instance between 2 rocks. When the lander has completed a few system checks (which will take several hours) it will send a signal back, via the orbiter, to say it is working. Unusually, this signal will be a tune by *Blur*!



So let us hope that we will all be hearing that tune sometime on Christmas day.

Some of the engineering techniques pioneered in the *Beagle 2* project are now being developed for terrestrial usage. For instance, a portable mass spectrometer would be a useful tool in medical and chemical analysis applications.



Though I had followed the progress of *Beagle 2* before this lecture, I had not appreciated the amount of science and instrumentation that was packed into it and, whatever your thoughts about past or present life on Mars are, one can not overstate the fabulous achievements of Colin Pillinger and his dedicated team, who made *Beagle 2* a reality – with a budget of about £35 million. As Dr Morgan stated, this is the same price as Rio Ferdinand!

Andrew Johnson

Pictures: 'All Rights Reserved Beagle 2' from	http://beagle2.open.ac.uk/
Blur Tune	http://news.bbc.co.uk/olmedia/1790000/video/1790918_blur_beagle_vi.ram

The Evening Sky November 2003

The evenings have now drawn in and it is dark soon after 6 p.m. A good test of sky transparency is whether the Andromeda Galaxy is visible to the naked eye. The great Galaxy should be easily seen from locations free of artificial light pollution on a Moonless night. To find Andromeda, venture out into the blackness at midnight, look due north, stretch your head right back (gently) and you will see a small fuzzy, hazy image: that is Andromeda.

Our own galaxy (the Milky Way) is actually a giant, its mass being equal to one trillion Suns and its diameter about 100,000 light years. The Milky Way belongs to the Local Group of galaxies, a small group of three and over thirty small galaxies. The Milky Way is the second largest galaxy after Andromeda, which is around two-and-a-half million light years' distance.

A number of faint galaxies lie much closer to us. Several of the dwarf Local Group members are satellite galaxies or companions of the Milky Way. The closest is around 80,000 light years distance and is actually interacting with our Milky Way galaxy, which is very gradually swallowing it up. Moreover the Milky Way and Andromeda are on a collision course and will merge together in the very distant future. The two galaxies are inextricably gravitationally bound and their fate is already sealed.

Mercury and Venus are both low in the evening twilight while Mars dominates the evening sky. Saturn is at a good altitude by midnight before Jupiter rises in the morning sky. Do make every effort to observe all five naked eye planets this month. Remember to wrap up warm on these cold November nights.

Full Moon occurs on the 9th. November Moon names are Snow Moon, Dark Moon, Fog Moon and Mad Moon. November was the ninth month in the oldest Roman calendar. In the Celtic tradition it was the beginning of a new year. The Celtic year ended on the eve of Samhain (Halloween) and a new one began the day after. They considered it a Moon (month) of beginnings and endings and many still do.

The Leonids meteor shower occurs on the 18/19th and promises to be quite spectacular again this year. I shall be out all evening lying on my sun bed looking up at the heavens. I shall be thinking of you, watching the meteors with me and though we are separated by distance we will all be watching together, connected by our collective unconscious and by our wonderment of the cosmos.

Enjoy Your Evening Sky!

Walter Berg - walterberg@theeveningsky.co.uk

Please don't forget to visit The Evening Sky on the web at <http://www.theeveningsky.co.uk> so recent additions include some new articles written by Walter on subjects such as Starting Astronomy, The Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming, Ozone Layer Depletion and much much more.

If you received this bulletin in error or wish to unsubscribe from 'The Evening Sky' mailing list then please send an email to unsubscribe@theeveningsky.co.uk

TALE ENDERS

EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION by PRA member Jeff Whitear is often not far out. In his latest letter, Jeff predicts that based on a two year cycle, there will be a strong earthquake along the fault line running from N.Ireland across N.Wales then through the Midlands and out through Suffolk next year. (In the order of 3—4.1 on the Richter Scale).

SPACE WEATHER Giant sunspot 486 unleashed another intense solar flare on Nov. 4th (1950 UT) and this one could be historic. The blast saturated x-ray sensors onboard GOES satellites. The last time this happened in April 2001, the flare that saturated the sensors was classified as an X20—the biggest ever recorded at the time. The latest flare appears to have been even stronger. *Source: swlist@spaceweather.com*

STRANGE DREAMS: 'Yorky', a regular reader and contributor, tells us that she recently had a strange dream of being in an underground facility, hidden under hills. This was underneath a ruined Abbey and held a secret laboratory. She was one of a large group, all equipped with 'hard hats' and lamps. The group walked past two guards, who ignored them. As they passed, she noticed that one of the guards had large black eyes (Hybrid?). The group then entered a lift to go further down into the complex...then the dream ended. Strange?

AN INDIAN WARNING, from PRA member 'Mary' who is, like the majority of us, concerned about Man's destruction of the Rainforests and environment. The rainforests are the lungs of the Earth, points out Mary and the ecology of the Earth is going out of balance, it is time that Man woke up! Mary leaves us with the wise words of the Indians.

"Only after the last tree has been cut down, Only after the last river has been poisoned, Only after the last fish has been caught, Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten!" *'Love and Light' Mary.*

A COSTLY UFO TALK! A talk entitled 'The Truth About UFO's' took place at 371 Burton Rd., Derby on October 4th. The theme, advertised as the 'Disclosure Project' was arranged by Ananda Sirsena (Aetherius Society) **Admission £20.** (The 'Disclosure Project', the brainchild of Steven M. Greer M.D., had been covered at a PRA meeting over **2 years ago** at an admission cost **£1.00**).

A BELGIAN CROP CIRCLE near Averno-le-Bauduin was visited last June by Mr Jean-Marie Van der Hoop, who has kindly sent us full details, including an excellent set of aerial photographs. This report will be covered in the next issue of the OVNI

OBJECT PHOTOGRAPHED CROSSING LUNAR DISC. In the 'Unexplained.Info' website, (Editor Dan Bright) two photographs have been reproduced showing a dark object crossing the face of the Moon. Photographed on August 16th from the West Midlands, by a father and son, the photographs are currently being analysed. "My son and I were taking photographs of Mars and the Moon on 16-8-03 using a Kodak digital camera held freehand to the eyepiece of my reflector telescope. My son was bringing the Moon into view when he noticed an object moving across the Lunar disc. He quickly photographed the Moon and was surprised to find that when we downloaded the pictures to my computer, that we had captured an object showing what looks like a shack on the surface of the Moon." commented the witness.

Take a look at http://zaziork.com/theunexplained/case_files/case_008/main.htm

LAST PRA MEETING OF 2003

Will be held at the Royal British Legion, Allenton, Derby at 8pm on Tuesday 25th. November.

There will be a showing of the latest video from the USA on the 'Kecksberg Incident'.

£1 on the night. Non-members welcome. **Free Raffle** 'The World's Greatest 'Alien Abduction Mysteries'.

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